

## [Bedford Caperton]

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Beliefs and Customs - Occupational lore

Mrs. Annie McAulay

Maverick, Texas

Runnels County

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COWBOY LORE

BEDFORD CAPERTON was born in Hayes County, May 31, 1868. He was married to Miss Edna Little of Runnels County in 1903. He moved from Hayes to Concho County in 1879 . , He has lived living in Concho, Runnels and Coleman Counties since that time.

Mr. Caperton says: " I moved with my mother and two older sisters to Concho County in 1879. My father had died before we left Hayes County. We settled on the old Fountain ranch. It was right on the line of Concho, Runnels and Coleman Counties, but our home was in Concho County. My mother taught the first school that was taught in Concho County, there.

"I learned to ride quite young, and I got my first job [?????] in the early eighties. Bill McAulay ranged his on a ranch cattle near the Colorado and Concho rivers below Ballinger. He also This rancher also had herds in Coke County at that time. I never made a long drive except driving herds from one range ( Lapin Lipan Flat to the other (Howard Draw).

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"I remember we were driving 300 herd head from Lapen Lipan Flat to Howard Draw once, while I was working for Mr. McAulay, and we had the worst stampede I ever saw. It was about the third night out. We had camped for the night in an eight - section pasture, and only placed one man to guard them at the time. It happened to be my shift when the they stampeded. C12 Texas 2 Page 2.

"It was about dark and we had bedded them down on a rocky sort of hillside. Most of the boys had ridden over to a nearby ranch / house to visit awhile. My horse stubbed his toe, snorted, and made quite a bit or noise, and everything being so quiet, that it disturbed them, and they began to stir. I tried to quiet them , but the leaders suddenly made a break, and the whole herd left out like a streak of lightning. We were fortunate though-I had often heard old cowmen say that if you could get a herd to circling on rocky ground they'd not try to break out of the circle, that they were on rocky ground. We got them started to milling, and about midnight their feet got tender and they began to slow down. We were plenty tired but mighty glad we'd been able to hold [?] them together.

"I worked for the [?] a big outfit in Concho County for several years. There were five new hands who started working the first morning I did. They gave us five mounts apeice apiece with which to do our ridin'; and they were all broncs-young stuff that had never been ridden —well, we had bronco ridin' every morning for quite a spell. Bob Pearce and Will Wyatt, both of whom were with [??] this outfit , were plenty good at ridin', both bronco and general riding. They rode straight in the saddle and never rode a horse, no matter how mean or trcky tricky , that they couldn't manage.

"Fred Baker was the best roper I ever saw. He could rope 'em runnin ' , dodgin ' , or anyway as slick as a button. He was with the Mulhall shows at Angelo for sometime. The Mulhall sisters were good riders, too. I went to work again in '97 for Bill [????] 3 Page 3.

They had the biggest round-up in Concho County about that time that I've ever helped with. Mr. McAulay was range boss. There was an estimate of 10,000 head rounded up.

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We brought 'em out of the draws and creeks for miles and miles, taking several days to do it. " There such men as Grundy Foreman, Fog and John Coffee, Bob [Littlefield?], George Wyatt, George [Criswall?], and many others not living now , in that round up. " Folkstuff - Range lore

Range-lore

Annie McAuley

Maverick, Texas

### RANGE-LORE

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"I learned to ride quite young, and I got my first job on a ranch near the Colorado and Concho rivers below Ballinger. This rancher also had herds in Coke County at that time. I never made a long drive except driving herds from one range (Lipan Flat) to the other (Howard Draw).

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REFERENCE:- Bedford Caperton, Runnels County. Interviewed July 14, 1938.